technology upgradation and improved infrastructure. It includes a Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme for Technology upgradation of SSIs with a provision for lending of Rs. 5000 crores. The other recommendations of the Study Group constitute a basis for the formation of the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Credit Facilities to Small Industries

3494. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been urged to provide level playing field to the small scale industries which is necessary for fair and healthy competition;

(b) whether the Laghu Udyog Bharti has also urged Government for timely and adequate credit facilities at low interest to the small and tiny industreis, benefit from technological advancement and innovations; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to promote the village and agro industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) To promote the Village and Agro Industries, Government have been implementing the Margin Money Scheme of the KVIC in the country, under which 25% margin money is provided to the general category of entrepreneurs and 30% in the case of SC/ST/Women/handicapped etc. for project cost upto Rs. 10 lakhs and 10% of the project cost over the above Rs. 10 lakhs upto Rs. 25 lakhs. The Government have also announced on 14.5.2001 a Policy Package for strengthening the Khadi & Village Industries sector which is comprised of Rebate Policy for five years, options of Rebate and Market Development Assistance (MDA), Insurance cover to Khadi artisans, emphasis on improvement of Khadi products, creation of packaging and design facilities, measures to promote marketing, brand building, cluster development, focus on core areas and provision of additional working capital.

Development of SSIs in the Rural Areas

3495. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for expansion and development of small scale industries in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, what is the programme for 2001-2002; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Promotion of small scale industries (SSIs) has been one of the conscious policies of the Government. Special thrust is given for rural areas through the schemes like the Integrated Infrastructure Development (IID) Scheme, and the National Programme on Rural Industrialisation (NPRI). These schemes are being continued in 2001-02.

Impact of Dumping of Foreign Goods on SSIs

3496. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have worked out of comprehensive strategy to help the small scale units to fight anti-dumping cases;

(b) if so, whether smuggling and import of small items reserved for the small scale industries have been affected adversely; and

(c) if so, the details of the strategy to be adopted to strengthen the small scale industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has worked out a comprehensive strategy which includes provision of financial assistance upto Rs. One lakh to SSI Associations who have initiated anti-dumping investigations, a panel of experts who can be referred for issues concerning anti-dumping, information dissemination through twenty Anti Dumping Workshops all over the country, etc.

(b) As per recent import data, it is seen that the import of 300 sensitive items, as identified by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry after the removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs), has shown a negative growth rate of 11% for these products. Therefore, there is no surge in imports. With the liberalization of the economy and removal of all QRs on imports, there is now a free flow of imports through regular channels.

(c) The Government has put in place several measures to help SSIs become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use